

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 093318
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 IO-13 PM-05
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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:ETUNIS; DOD/ISA:LTC. FORSTER:JFC/PDW
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF WASHDC ROUTINE RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 093318

SECDEF FOR ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PGOV, JO, US

SUBJECT: RESCHEDULING OF JMC MEETING

REF: (A) AMMAN 3049, (B) AMMAN 2275

1. STATE AND DEFENSE CERTAINLY SHARE YOUR CONCERN THAT THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE JMC NOT BE CONSTRUED BY THE GOJ AS A SIGN OF LESSENING USG INTEREST IN OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE RELATIONS WITH JORDAN. NO SLIGHT WAS INTENDED. THE WORLD BEING WHAT IT IS, POSTPONEMENTS--HOWEVER REGRETABLE--ARE SOMETIMES NECESSARY, AND MEETINGS OTHER THAN THE JMC HAVE HAD TO BE POSTPONED. YOU SHOULD ASSURE BIN SHAKER AND OTHERS CONCERNED THAT THE POSTPONEMENT RESULTS SOLELY FROM A SERIES OF UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENTS THAT WILL TIE UP DOD RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL AT THE TIME ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED. THE RESCHEDULING OF THE PRESENTATION TO CONGRESS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AIRCRAFT PACKAGE IS A MAJOR REASON. FYI: ALSO
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PLANNING FOR A VISIT BY EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE, SCHEDULED FOR SAME TIME, BUT NOW DEFERRED TO EARLY JUNE FOR SAME REASON. END FYI.

2. THE THREE TO FOUR-DAY LENGTH OF THE JMC AND THE NEED FOR HIGH-LEVEL DOD PARTICIPATION MAKES SCHEDULING MORE DIFFICULT THAN WOULD A SINGLE DAY OR THREE OR FOUR HOURS.

IN ORDER FOR ALL CONCERNED TO GIVE THE UNDIVIDED ATTENTION AND PREPARATION THE JMC DESERVES, DOD DETERMINED THAT THE PREFERRED DATE TO SCHEDULE THE JMC WOULD BE THE WEEK OF JUNE 18. IF EARLIER DATE HELPFUL TO GOJ, THEN 23-26 MAY IS WORKABLE FROM OUR END. IN ANY CASE, YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO BIN SHAKER THAT IT IS FOR THE VERY PURPOSE OF DEVOTING OUR FULL ATTENTION TO THE JMC THAT THIS POSTPONEMENT HAS BEEN NECESSARY, AND WE SINCERELY REGRET ANY INCONVENIENCE THAT THIS CHANGE MAY HAVE CAUSED THE GOJ.

3. MAKE CLEAR IN THE MOST SPECIFIC TERMS THAT THERE IS NO PRESSURE CAMPAIGN INTENDED. IF WE HAVE A MESSAGE TO GET ACROSS TO THE JORDANIANS, WE WILL MAKE IT SQUARELY.

4. PLEASE CONVEY ASD MCGIFFERT'S PERSONAL REGRETS FOR THIS DELAY. HE VERY MUCH LOOKS FORWARD TO SEE LTG BIN SHAKER AGAIN. VANCE

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O, MR. KAMP.

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